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PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 98th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 8 April 1993, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. JESUS (Cape Verde)
(Vice-President)

- Admission of new Members to the United Nations [19] (continued)

  (a) Application for admission

  (b) Letter from the President of the Security Council

  (c) Draft resolution

- Address by His Excellency Mr. Kiro Gligorov, President of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

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- Personnel questions: report of the Fifth Committee (Part III) [112] (continued)

- Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission: report of the Fifth Committee (Part II) [117] (continued)

- Financing of the United Nations Mission for the referendum in Western Sahara: report of the Fifth Committee (Part II) [121] (continued)

- Adoption of the agenda and organization of work: seventh report of the General Committee [8] (continued)

- Appointment to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments [17] (continued)

  (g) Appointment of members of the Committee on Conferences: note by the Secretary-General

- Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session: report of the First Committee [63] (continued)

- Training and research [89] (continued)

  (a) Report of the Second Committee

  (b) Report of the Fifth Committee

In the absence of the President, Mr. Jesus (Cape Verde), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 19 (continued)

ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS TO THE UNITED NATIONS

(a) APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION (A/47/876)

(b) LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL (A/47/923)

(c) DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/47/L.54)

The PRESIDENT: I should like to invite the General Assembly to consider, under agenda item 19, "Admission of new Members to the United Nations", the positive recommendation by the Security Council on the application for admission to membership in the United Nations of the State whose application is contained in document A/47/876.

The Security Council, in document A/47/923, has recommended to the General Assembly that the State whose application is contained in document A/47/876 be admitted to membership in the United Nations, this State being provisionally referred to for all purposes within the United Nations as "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" pending settlement of the difference that has arisen over the name of the State.

In this connection, the Assembly has before it a draft resolution contained in document A/47/L.54.

(The President)

In view of the desire of members to dispose of this item expeditiously, I should like to propose that we proceed immediately to take a decision on the draft resolution contained in document A/47/L.54, and, in this connection, to waive the relevant provision of rule 78 of the rules of procedure which reads as follows:

> "... As a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any meeting of the General Assembly unless copies of it have been circulated to all delegations not later than the day preceding".

Unless I hear any objection, I shall take it that the Assembly agrees with this proposal.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: In addition to the countries listed in document A/47/L.54, the following countries have become sponsors: Argentina, Australia, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Ecuador, India, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lithuania, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Oman, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Suriname, Tunisia, Turkey, the United States of America, Uruguay, and the United Arab Emirates.

We shall now consider draft resolution A/47/L.54.

May I take it that the General Assembly accepts the recommendation of the Security Council and adopts draft resolution A/47/L.54 by acclamation?

Draft resolution A/47/L.54 was adopted (resolution 47/225).

The PRESIDENT: I therefore declare the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia admitted to membership in the United Nations.

I request the Chief of Protocol to escort the delegation of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to its place.

The delegation of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was escorted to its place.

The PRESIDENT: I welcome the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations family, and express my congratulations on its admission as a Member of this Organization.

I call on the representative of Rwanda, who will speak on behalf of the Group of African States.

Mr. BIZIMANA (Rwanda) (interpretation from French): It gives me great pleasure, on behalf of the African Group, which I have the honour to represent during the month of April, to bid a most sincere welcome into the United Nations to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The admission of this new Member State is an event that brings us even closer to our objective of a truly universal Organization, and is therefore eloquent proof of the confidence of peoples in this Organization and in its ability to help them unite their efforts, to share their destinies and to promote the noble ideals of peace, freedom and justice in the service of the development in solidarity of humanity.

On this historic occasion, the African States, on whose behalf I am speaking today, are delighted at the prospect of cooperating with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in seeking to achieve the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter. Those same States that bid welcome to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia wish its people every success.

The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of Bhutan, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Asian States.

Mr. TSHERING (Bhutan): It is a great honour for the delegation of the Kingdom of Bhutan to welcome, on behalf of the States members of the Asian Group, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia as the newest Member of the

(Mr. Tshering, Bhutan)

United Nations. We are all aware of the tremendous difficulties that the region as a whole has been facing for some time, and therefore this happy occasion is indeed a matter to be celebrated.

The admission today of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations clearly indicates the respect of the international community for the sovereign and independent status of the country as well as high regard for its people for their contributions to cultural and social development. We are aware that some matters still remain unresolved; however, the admission confirms the confidence of the international community in the sincerity of all concerned in their desire to resolve all outstanding matters.

The States members of the Asian Group join me in congratulating you, Mr. Gligorov, and your people on the historic occasion of the accession of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to membership in the United Nations. We are aware of the great happiness that your people are feeling today and we wish to share their joy. We are aware not only of the rich contribution your country will make to the cultural diversity of the international community, but we are also confident of the important contributions you and your people will make in bringing about peace, stability and progress in the region and in the world.

Membership in the United Nations has many privileges and many responsibilities. The greatest privilege is to be seated in this body of 181 nations as equal, sovereign and independent States. Equally, the greatest responsibility is to extend to all other 180 Members full respect, friendship and understanding. We have no doubt that as a Member of the United Nations, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia will fully discharge its responsibilities in an exemplary manner.

(Mr. Tshering, Bhutan)

Speaking on behalf of my own delegation, while geographical distance separates our two countries, there are many features that we share. We are both small and landlocked countries endeavouring to bring about greater improvement in the lives of our peoples, but the most important feature that we will share is our common faith in the United Nations system and the pride that we will take in our membership.

I wish to welcome once again, on behalf of the States members of the Asian Group, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations family.

The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of Hungary, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States.

Mr. ERDOS (Hungary) (interpretation from French): It is a great honour and privilege for me, as current Chairman of the Group of Eastern European States, to convey on behalf of the member countries of the Group our very best wishes to the 181st Member of this world Organization on its admission to membership. Today we are putting an end to a situation that has lasted for too long. We know that the Assembly's adoption of the resolution on admission is a crucial stage in the life of this new Member State of the United Nations.

The increase in the number of Member States of the United Nations is eloquent proof of the historic changes that our world has been witnessing for some time. This development reaffirms ever more forcefully the great principle of universality of the United Nations. After the end of the cold war unprecedented prospects are now opening up for mankind to resolve global problems, an endeavour that requires the participation of all States. We welcome in particular the fact that this new Member of our world Organization, which we are sure will play an active part in international activities, comes from the Eastern European region.

The countries of the Group of Eastern European States welcome the initiative taken by the Co-Chairmen of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia to set up machinery to resolve the difference that arose with regard to the name of the newly admitted State and to promote the adoption of confidence-building measures between the interested parties. They express the hope that a positive settlement, mutually satisfactory to the parties, will be found rapidly, thus relegating to historical oblivion a difference that has for too long delayed the definitive solutions that everyone hopes for. In the opinion of the Group

(Mr. Erdos, Hungary)

of Eastern European States, such a settlement would undoubtedly make a major contribution to the maintenance of relations of good-neighbourliness and cooperation in the region. Likewise, they believe that the implementation of confidence-building measures would help further strengthen peace, security and stability in this important part of Eastern Europe.

The member countries of the Group of Eastern European States are convinced that the new Member State which has today finally taken its rightful place in this Assembly will make a valuable contribution to the implementation of the purposes and principles of the Charter. They wish this friendly country every success in this common endeavour, which is both difficult and inspiring.

The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of Belize, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

Mr. ROGERS (Belize): I have the distinct honour to speak on behalf of the Member States of this Organization that make up the Latin American and Caribbean States and extend a sincere, warm welcome and our hands of friendship to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on its momentous admission to the United Nations. Its entry to the United Nations further enriches the diverse membership of the United Nations and attests to the principle of universality which guides this Organization. We feel confident that the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia will continue to pursue a policy of peace, friendship and cooperation with other nations. At the same time, we take this opportunity to urge the continuation of dialogue for the final resolution of the difference.

(Mr. Rogers, Belize)

We note with great satisfaction that the newest member of the United Nations has escaped the conflict and turmoil brought about by dramatic changes that swept through its corner of the world. But, while we rejoice at these extraordinary events, we hasten to add our deep concern over the crisis in other areas where continued tension and discord present obstacles to peace. We pay public tribute to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for facilitating the promotion of peace, through dialogue, in a region torn by war.

The member States of the Latin American and Caribbean Group also wish to extend to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia the full cooperation and solidarity of the Group as we work for international peace and security, and the realization of a world free, prosperous and stable, where fundamental freedoms and human rights are upheld.

The PRESIDENT: I next call on the representative of Iceland, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States.

Mr. SIGMUNDSSON (Iceland): On behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States, which I have the honour to represent here today, I have the great pleasure to welcome to the United Nations the new Member State whose admission we have just approved by acclamation.

This historic event brings us one step closer to universality of membership of the Organization, which now stands at 181 Member States. It is testimony to the desire of the international community to accept all States which are prepared to honour the obligations contained in the Charter of the United Nations and share the principles and purposes enshrined therein.

We fully support the presidential statement that was made at the Security Council meeting on 7 April and are convinced that the new Member State will,

(Mr. Sigmundsson, Iceland)

through its membership in the Organization, help strengthen peace and stability and cooperation between the States of its region.

We welcome the new Member State to the United Nations and wish its people peace, prosperity and success in the future.

The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of the United States of America, the host country.

Ms. ALBRIGHT (United States of America): As the host country of the United Nations, the United States is pleased to join the other Members of the General Assembly in welcoming the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to membership in the United Nations. The United States expresses its appreciation to the parties involved in the process of admitting the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations.

The compromise package allowing the admission of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, which includes Security Council resolution 817 (1993) and the statement by the Security Council President of 7 April 1993, is a tribute to the statesmanship of all the parties involved, especially the leaders of Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. We applaud their efforts to resolve their differences through negotiation.

The admission of this new State to the United Nations will contribute importantly to the stability of a troubled region. Membership in the United Nations is just a first step, however, in resolving the differences between the two parties. They must continue to show the flexibility which has got them this far. We urge them to cooperate fully with Lord Owen and Mr. Vance as the Co-Chairmen undertake to set up a mechanism to settle the outstanding differences.

(Ms. Albright, United States)

We look forward to working closely with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in the United Nations.

The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of Greece.

Mr. EXARCHOS (Greece): Greece, as a sponsor of the resolution that has just been adopted by the General Assembly, joins all previous speakers who have welcomed the admission of the new Member, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, to the United Nations as a renewed expression of the universality of our Organization and its desire to accept in its midst a State which pledges to adhere to the principles and purposes set out in the Charter. We consider this an important step towards the maintenance of peace and stability in the region.

Greece will extend its cooperation to the new Member State in its earnest hope that all the elements contained in Security Council resolution 817 (1993) and the presidential statement of 7 April 1993, will be successfully brought to a positive conclusion as an integral whole. Greece is ready to offer its contribution with sincerity and goodwill to the task assigned to the Co-Chairmen of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia so as to help achieve, within the shortest possible time, the settlement of all pending issues.

On this solemn occasion, the Greek Government wishes to believe that the new Member will reciprocate in the same spirit so as to enable our two countries to inaugurate a new era of friendly and good-neighbourly relations.

ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY MR. KIRO GLIGOROV, PRESIDENT OF THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now hear an address by the President of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Mr. Kiro Gligorov, President of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, was escorted to the podium.

The PRESIDENT: On behalf of the General Assembly, I have the honour to welcome to the United Nations the President of the former Yugoslav Republic

(The President)

of Macedonia, His Excellency Mr. Kiro Gligorov, and to invite him to address the Assembly.

President GLIGOROV: At this solemn moment, I am happy and excited to express, on behalf of the people and Government of the Republic of Macedonia, our gratitude for the support demonstrated by the admission of the Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations as an equal Member.

(spoke in Macedonian; English text furnished by the delegation)

That act has crowned with success the centuries-long efforts of the Macedonia people and its 130-year struggle for freedom and an independent State. The admission of the Republic of Macedonia into the international family of nations is an act in which justice triumphs and a shining example of how a small and peace-loving nation has achieved its right to self-determination and statehood and its responsible position in the international community in a peaceful and legitimate way.

On this occasion, I should like very briefly to point to a part of the long and very often tragic history of my people. It is a nation with a lasting memory and a rich cultural history and tradition; a nation that first introduced literacy and Christianity to the Slavs; a nation whose fresco paintings are a shining point in the darkness of medieval Europe; a nation whose modern literature and art are part of the world's cultural treasures; a nation whose basic cultural and political credo has been expressed throughout its history in its spirit of coexistence and ethnic and cultural tolerance. It is a nation that joined the anti-fascist coalition in the Second World War, during which struggle, at the first session of the Anti-Fascist Assembly for the National Liberation of Macedonia, established the Macedonian State, which later joined the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

(President Gligorov)

The strategist of the Macedonian liberation movement at the beginning of the century, Goce Delcev, a humanist and cosmopolite, clearly expressed this way of understanding the world as "a field for cultural competition among nations". It is in that spirit that Macedonia sought and won its State independence and sovereignty. It was the only Republic of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to gain its independence by the peaceful and legitimate means of a referendum and a new Constitution. It is the only Republic that has not participated in the war and its interethnic and religious bloodshed, which have senselessly spread across the region.

On its road to independence, the Republic of Macedonia unfortunately suffered great damage. It was subject to the unjust delay of its international recognition. In fact, it found itself in the position of suffering enormous losses through the sanctions imposed on Serbia and Montenegro and was exposed to a blockade by some of its neighbours. In spite of all this, however, the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia and its various state bodies have remained committed to the principles of peace and dialogue, interethnic understanding, tolerance and coexistence in the Balkans. We were convinced that the United Nations would make the right decision.

Today, the Republic of Macedonia, a peaceful European State, is developing its foreign policy in accordance with the United Nations Charter: the strengthening of international peace and security, development of economic cooperation, and the protection of human rights as prerequisites for a safer and more just world for all. Now, as an equal Member of the United Nations, it will be actively involved in the realization of the aims and principles of the United Nations Charter.

(President Gligorov)

Based on our own traditions and current efforts, our highest aim is to secure human rights, and in particular the rights of the nationalities and ethnic groups living in the Republic of Macedonia, which today is home to Macedonians, Albanians, Turks, Serbs, Gypsies and Vlachs, as well as members of other nationalities. In that spirit, we shall strengthen our bonds of good-neighbourliness and friendship in the Balkans.

The Republic of Macedonia wants and is prepared to make its contribution to the resolution of international conflicts in accordance with the resolutions of the Security Council and in the interests of peace and security. The Republic of Macedonia expresses its determination to be actively involved in the activities of the specialized agencies of the United Nations system. The Republic of Macedonia, as a European State, longs to become a member of the European community of nations.

I solemnly declare, on behalf of the Republic of Macedonia, that the Republic of Macedonia will respect the standards of international law and the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter in its international relations. The Republic of Macedonia remains ready to develop its relations with all States of the world on the basis of the principles of sovereign equality, the non-use of force, non-interference in the internal affairs of others, and respect for their integrity and independence. Based on those same principles, we are especially interested in developing relations with our neighbours, including a speedy resolution of the present situation pertaining to Greece, and in opening the road to friendship and cooperation.

(President Gligorov)

At this historic moment for my State, I cannot but reiterate in conclusion that we are witnessing the realization of the words of the Preamble to the United Nations Charter:

"to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small".

The PRESIDENT: On behalf of the General Assembly, I wish to thank the President of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for the statement he has just made.

Mr. Kiro Gligorov, President of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, was escorted from the podium.

AGENDA ITEMS 112, 117 AND 121 (continued)

PERSONNEL QUESTIONS: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (PART III) (A/47/708/Add.2)

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS ANGOLA VERIFICATION MISSION: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (PART II) (A/47/795/Add.1)

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION FOR THE REFERENDUM IN WESTERN SAHARA: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (PART II) (A/47/796/Add.1)

The PRESIDENT: I request the Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee, Mr. Jorge Osella of Argentina, to introduce the reports of the Fifth Committee in one intervention.

Mr. OSELLA (Argentina), Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee (interpretation from Spanish): It is my honour today to introduce the reports of the Fifth Committee on agenda items 112, entitled "Personnel questions", 117, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission", and 121, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the referendum in Western Sahara".

(Mr. Osella, Rapporteur, Fifth Committee)

Part III of the report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 112, "Personnel questions", is contained in document A/47/798/Add.2. As noted in paragraph 2 of the report, the Fifth Committee further considered the item at its 57th meeting. At that meeting, the representative of Austria and Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Ms. Maria Rotheiser, acting on behalf of the Fifth Committee, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.5/47/L.21) and two draft decisions (A/C.5/47/L.34 and A/C.5/47/L.35). These were all adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. Details of the debate on this item and of delegations' explanations of position may be found in the summary record of the meeting (A/C.5/47/SR.57).

In paragraphs 9 and 10 of this report the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of that draft resolution and those draft decisions.

Part II of the report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 117, "Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission", is contained in document A/47/795/Add.1. As indicated in paragraph 2 of the report, the Committee considered the item further at its 55th and 57th meetings. At the 57th meeting, the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Marian-George Dinu of Romania, proposed the draft decision recommended in paragraph 7 of this report for adoption by the General Assembly. As indicated in that paragraph the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of this draft decision.

Part II of the report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 121, "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the referendum in Western Sahara", is contained in document A/47/796/Add.1. As indicated in paragraph 2

(Mr. Osella, Rapporteur, Fifth Committee)

of the report, the Committee considered the item further at its 55th and 57th meetings. At the 57th meeting, the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Marian-George Dinu of Romania, proposed the draft decision the Fifth Committee recommends in paragraph 5 of this report for adoption by the General Assembly.

The PRESIDENT: If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the reports of the Fifth Committee which are before the Assembly today.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote.

The positions of delegations regarding the recommendations of the Fifth Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records.

Let me remind members that by paragraph 7 of decision 34/401 the General Assembly agreed that

> "When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee".

May I remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

(The President)

Before we begin to take action on the recommendations contained in the reports of the Fifth Committee, I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take decisions in the same manner as was done in the Fifth Committee.

The General Assembly will now consider part III of the report of the Fifth Committee (A/47/708/Add.2) on agenda item 112, entitled "Personnel questions".

Members will recall that the Assembly considered part I of the report at its 72nd plenary meeting, on 25 November 1992, and part II at its 94th plenary meeting, on 22 December 1992.

(The President)

The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 9 of part III of its report (A/47/708/Add.2) and two draft decisions recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 10 of part III of the same report.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution contained in paragraph 9 of part III of the report.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 47/226).

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now take a decision on the two draft decisions contained in paragraph 10 of part III of the report.

Draft decision I is entitled "Documents relating to personnel questions".

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft decision without a vote.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft decision I was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: Draft decision II, entitled "Personnel questions", was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft decision II was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of Denmark, who wishes to make a statement on behalf of the European Community and its member States.

Mr. KLINGENBERG (Denmark): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Community and its member States on agenda item 112, "Personnel questions". We are indeed pleased that the Fifth Committee was able to adopt by consensus the resolution that we have just adopted. It represents the culmination of many weeks of discussion and negotiation, tirelessly chaired by

(Mr. Klingenberg, Denmark)

the Coordinator, Maria Rotheiser of Austria, during which all participating delegations made considerable efforts to achieve a solution which would be acceptable to all. The result is commendable.

In order to be able to have a resolution on personnel questions this year, which we support and firmly believe is desirable, delegations had to make some difficult compromises.

The European Community and its member States have been a consistent and staunch supporter of the biennialization of the agenda item on personnel questions. We therefore regard it as an exceptional measure that we have accepted the decision to consider the report of the Open-Ended Working Group on the formula for the determination of equitable geographical representation of Member States in the Secretariat at the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly rather than at the forty-ninth session.

The European Community and its member States are prepared to discuss the question of "desirable ranges" in all its aspects. However, we remain to be convinced that our earlier position on this issue, as expressed during the forty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly, does not remain valid - namely, that we see no reason to change the present methodology as established in 1988 on the basis of a resolution adopted by consensus. Subsequent developments have reinforced our view.

Furthermore, it is our belief that the work of the Open-Ended Working Group should focus on what is of general interest to Member States, as opposed to what may be of narrow interest to only a few Member States.

We appreciate the intentions of the Secretary-General regarding the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat, and we expect that any measures taken will be in accordance with the provisions of the Charter and the Staff Regulations.

(Mr. Klingenberg, Denmark)

The European Community and its Member States attach great importance to ensuring the safety and security of United Nations staff and respect for their privileges and immunities, including staff involved in peace-keeping operations. We therefore welcome the request to the Secretary-General to provide updated information on this issue to the General Assembly at its next session. As pointed out in resolution 47/28, the Secretary-General has, of course, the right to bring anything he deems important concerning this matter to the attention of Member States at any time.

Finally, the European Community and its member States would like to associate themselves with the remarks made by the United Kingdom during the 57th formal meeting of the Fifth Committee, held on 19 March 1993, as regards the Fifth Committee's work procedures.

The PRESIDENT: May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 112?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now turn to part II of the report (A/47/795/Add.1) of the Fifth Committe on agenda item 117, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission".

Members will recall that the Assembly considered part I of the report at its 93rd plenary meeting, on 22 December 1992.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee contained in paragraph 7 of part II of its report (A/47/795/Add.1)

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft decision contained in paragraph 7 of part II of the report?

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of Angola.

Mr. de ALMEIDA (Angola): On the question of the financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II), my delegation supports the Chairman of the Fifth Committee along with those delegations that, under the chairmanship of Belgium in informal consultations, contributed to the continued maintenance of the Mission in Angola.

Angola's being under a state of emergency gives my delegation the right to appeal to all Member States for the urgent consideration of humanitarian assistance to the people of Angola and the continued presence of peace-keeping forces in Angola.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 117.

The Assembly will now turn to part II of the report (A/47/796/Add.1) of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 121, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara".

Members will recall that the Assembly considered part I of the report at tis 93rd plenary meeting, on 22 December 1992.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee contained in paragraph 5 of part II of its report (A/47/796/Add.1).

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to adopt the draft decision contained in paragraph 5 of part II of the report?

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 121.

AGENDA ITEM 8 (continued)

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK: SEVENTH REPORT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE (A/47/250/Add.6)

The PRESIDENT: The seventh report of the General Committee (A/47/250/Add.6) concerns requests submitted by the Secretary-General and Barbados.

Paragraph 1 of the report concerns the request by the Secretary-General for the inclusion on the agenda of the current session of an additional sub-item of agenda item 17, "Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments".

The General Committee decided to recommend that the sub-item, entitled "Appointment of members and alternate members of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee", should be included on the agenda of the current session and that it should be allocated to Fifth Committee.

May I take it that the General Assembly decides, on the recommendation of the General Committee, to include in the agenda of its forty-seventh session an additional sub-item of agenda item 17 entitled "Appointment of members and alternate members of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: The Chairman of the Fifth Committee will be informed of the decision just taken.

(The President)

Next, I should like to draw the attention of representatives to paragraph 2 of the seventh report of the General Committee, which concerns the request by Barbados for the inclusion in the agenda of the current session of an additional item, entitled "Emergency assistance to Cuba".

The General Committee decided to recommend that the item should be included in the agenda of the current session and that it should be considered directly in plenary meeting.

May I take it that the General Assembly decides, on the recommendation of the General Committee, to include in the agenda of its forty-seventh session an additional item, entitled "Emergency assistance to Cuba", and to consider it directly in plenary meeting?

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 17 (continued)

APPOINTMENT TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS

(g) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES: NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/47/107/Add.1)

The PRESIDENT: I should now like to draw the attention of the General Assembly to a note by the Secretary-General concerning the appointment of the members of the Committee on Conferences (A/47/107/Add.1).

His note contains the text of the letter that the President of the General Assembly addressed to him on 17 February 1993, informing him that in accordance with the terms of resolution 43/222 B of 21 December 1988, the President had appointed, at the 93rd plenary meeting of the General Assembly, on 22 December 1992, Austria, Fiji, Grenada, Jordan and the United States of America as members of the Committee on Conferences for a period of three years, which began on 1 January 1993. Regarding the appointment of two

(The President)

members from the African States, the President further communicated to the Secretary-General that the Chairman of the Group of African States had informed the President that the Group had endorsed the candidatures of Morocco and the Niger for the vacancies and that the President was therefore appointing Morocco and the Niger as members of the Committee on Conferences.

May I take it that the General Assembly takes note of these appointments?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: The terms of office of Morocco and the Niger expire on 31 December 1995.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to conclude its consideration of sub-item (g) of agenda item 17?

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 63 (continued)

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION: REPORT OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE (A/47/693/Add.1)

The PRESIDENT: If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the report of the First Committee which is before the Assembly today.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote.

The positions of delegations regarding the recommendation of the First Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records.

May I remind members that under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that

(The President)

"When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee."

May I remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendation contained in the report of the First Committee, I should like to advise representatives that, unless they have already notified the Secretariat otherwise, we are going to proceed to take a decision in the same manner as was done in the First Committee.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the First Committee in paragraph 9 of its report (A/47/693/Add.1).

The First Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote.

May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 47/54 G).

The PRESIDENT: May I take it that the Assembly wishes to conclude its consideration of agenda item 63?

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 89 (continued)

TRAINING AND RESEARCH

(a) REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE (A/47/729, draft resolution II)

(b) REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/47/914)

The PRESIDENT: The General Assembly will now resume its consideration of the report (A/47/729) of the Second Committee on agenda item 89, "Training and research".

Paragraph 21 of the report of the Second Committee contains the text of two draft resolutions.

Members will recall that action on draft resolution I was taken by the Assembly at its 93rd plenary meeting, on 19 December 1992, and that at the same meeting the Assembly decided to postpone consideration of draft resolution II, as the Fifth Committee had decided to defer consideration of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

The Assembly is now in a position to take a decision on draft resolution II, recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 21 of its report (A/47/729). The report of the Fifth Committee on the programme budget implications of draft resolution II is contained in document A/47/914.

Draft resolution II, entitled "United Nations Institute for Training and Research", was adopted by the Second Committee without a vote.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 47/227).

The PRESIDENT: I shall now call on those representatives who wish to explain their position on the resolution just adopted.

Mr. JADMANI (Pakistan): My delegation welcomes the consensus adoption of the resolution on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). We would, however, like to place on record the following:

(Mr. Jadmani, Pakistan)

My delegation regards the activities carried out by UNITAR as extremely useful. One of the effective tools used by UNITAR for carrying out its research activities is its reliance on the work of senior research fellows who have vast experience in the United Nations system and are thus able to provide sound analysis and advice to the system. It is therefore a matter of great interest to us that this institution be retained and fully utilized. It is our understanding that the paragraph relating to the full-time senior fellows in the resolution on UNITAR is in consonance with article 6 of the statute of UNITAR.

The PRESIDENT: May I take it that the Assembly wishes to conclude its consideration of agenda item 89?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 4.30 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS

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General Assembly

PROVISIONAL

A/47/PV.99
20 April 1993

ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 99th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 15 April 1993, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mr. KALPAGE (Sri Lanka)
(Vice-President)

- Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations [111] (continued)
- Financing of the United Nations Operation in Somalia: report of the Fifth Committee [145] (continued)
- Emergency assistance to Cuba: draft resolution [154]
- Organization of work

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the Official Records of the General Assembly.

Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, within one week, to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Office of Conference Services, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

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In the absence of the President, Mr. Kalpagé (Sri Lanka), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.55 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 111 (continued)

SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS (A/47/870/Add.1)

The PRESIDENT: I should like to draw the Assembly's attention to document A/47/870/Add.1, which contains a letter addressed to me by the Secretary-General informing me that, since the issuance of his communication dated 19 January 1993, Haiti has made the necessary payment to reduce its arrears below the amount specified in Article 19 of the Charter.

May I take it that the General Assembly duly takes note of this information?

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 145 (continued)

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OPERATION IN SOMALIA: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/47/734/Add.1)

The PRESIDENT: I request the Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee, Mr. Jorge Osella of Argentina, to introduce the report of the Fifth Committee.

Mr. OSELLA (Argentina), Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee (interpretation from Spanish): I have the honour today of presenting to the General Asssembly part II of the Fifth Committee's report on agenda item 145, "Financing of the United Nations Operation in Somalia". This part of the report is contained in document A/47/734/Add.1.

As indicated in paragraph 2 of the report, the Fifth Committee considered this item at its 63rd and 64th meetings.

At the 64th meeting, the Chairman of the Committee introduced draft resolution A/C.5/47/L.37, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Operation in Somalia". At the same meeting, the Committee agreed to amend paragraph 9 of the draft resolution by including in paragraph 9 the words "and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia".

Also at the 64th meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote.

As stated in paragraph 8 of the report, the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution that has been submitted to it.

The PRESIDENT: If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the report of the Fifth Committee which is before the Assembly today.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote.

The positions of delegations regarding the recommendation of the Fifth Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records.

(The President)

May I remind members that under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that

> "When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, that is, either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee."

May I also remind delegations that, again in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendation contained in the report of the Fifth Committee, I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take a decision in the same manner as in the Fifth Committee.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 8 of its report (A/47/734/Add.1).

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly also wishes to do so?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 47/41 B).

The PRESIDENT: We have concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 145.

AGENDA ITEM 154

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO CUBA: DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/47/L.55)

The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of Belize to introduce draft resolution A/47/L.55.

Mr. ROGERS (Belize): I have the honour to introduce to the General Assembly draft resolution A/47/L.55, entitled "Emergency assistance to Cuba".

I should like to inform the Assembly that Togo and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea have joined the group of Latin American and Caribbean countries in sponsoring this draft resolution.

I wish to call attention to three corrections to be made to the draft resolution.

First, in the third paragraph of the preamble, in the first line the words "and the people" should be inserted after the word "Government" and before the word "of". The phrase would then read: "Government and the people of Cuba".

Secondly, in operative paragraph 4, in the fourth line the words "and the people" should be inserted after the word "Government" and before the word "of". The phrase would then read: "Government and the people of Cuba".

Thirdly, in operative paragraph 5, in the second line the words "for the duration of the emergency and the ensuing rehabilitation process" should be inserted after the word "Cuba" and before the word "to". The phrase would then read: "support to Cuba for the duration of the emergency and the ensuing rehabilitation process to alleviate".

Under the draft resolution before us, the Assembly would take note of the loss of life and damage to property and infrastructure caused by the storm

(Mr. Rogers, Belize)

which hit Cuba on 12 and 13 March. The Assembly would acknowledge the efforts of the Government and people of Cuba to provide relief and assistance to the people of Cuba who are suffering as a result of the storm. It would further call upon the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the relevant organs of the United Nations, to asasist in the rehabilitation efforts of the Government of Cuba, and would request the international community to provide emergency assistance to Cuba during this emergency period and in the rehabilitation process.

The group of Latin American and Caribbean countries has given its unanimous support to the draft resolution before the Assembly. We urge its adoption without delay, to bring relief to the people of Cuba during this period of emergency.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/47/L.55.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

Draft resolution A/47/L.55 was adopted (resolution 47/228).

The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of Cuba, who wishes to make a statement in explanation of position.

Mr. ZAMORA RODRIGUEZ (Cuba) (interpretation from Spanish): Allow me at the outset, Sir, to express through you the gratitude of the people and the Government of the Republic of Cuba to Member States for their adoption of the draft resolution which, we hope, will make a decisive contribution to my country's efforts to overcome the effects of the storm that struck us from 12 to 15 March. I should also like through you to express very special gratitude to the countries members of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States for their having submitted this text for consideration during this resumed session.

Indeed, the storm - which some of the media have referred to as "the storm of the century" - struck my country during the night of 12 March and, as Member States have been informed, caused loss of life, many wounded and considerable damage, which preliminary reports assess at over $1 billion. The total and partial destruction of thousands of dwellings and of crops, both for export and essential domestic foodstuffs; the damage to industry, not only through the effect on the sugar crop, which was at one of its most important stages when the storm hit, but also through the destruction of many of the country's industrial centres; the effects on services through damage to hospitals, schools, communications and transport networks, together with many warehouses storing medical products and food in 8 of the the country's 14 provinces - all of this clearly shows that this storm not only had short-term effects but also caused damage with a direct impact on medium- and long-term economic prospects. This damage accordingly deserves much more sustained attention, because the resources and efforts necessary to reverse it will be considerable.

(Mr. Zamora Rodriguez, Cuba)

While we deeply regret the loss of five lives and the fact that 95 people were wounded, the rapid mobilization of the Cuban civil defence averted a larger number of victims of this meteorological incident, when winds reaching 200 kilometres per hour brought very high tides and 25-foot waves, causing serious flooding along the coasts and in the capital itself.

Once the storm was over, there began an intensive recovery phase throughout the country, in which all available resources were brought to bear to overcome the short-term effects of the situation resulting from the high winds and flooding, particularly for those who suffered the loss of homes and property from the storm, numbering in the tens of thousands. At the same time, the people mobilized in great numbers to try to salvage the largest possible amount of agricultural products from the damaged crops.

In the days immediately following the storm, international assistance also began to arrive as necessary support to the country's own efforts, which continue at this very moment with singular heroism on the part of our people as a whole. We wish to express our deepest gratitude to all those countries, organizations of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and individuals who, from all over the world, have offered and continue to offer their assistance in solidarity with the people of Cuba in these difficult times.

The resolution that has just been adopted is one more demonstration of human solidarity and cooperation among nations, which should be the very foundation of this Organization's activities. This attitude encourages us to continue working more resolutely than ever before at the task of rebuilding the devastated areas of the country for the sake of the economic and social development and the well-being of the Cuban people. We are profoundly grateful to them and trust that the solidarity and cooperation set forth in

(Mr. Zamora Rodriguez, Cuba)

the resolution we have just adopted will continue to have tangible effects on our reversing the effects of this natural disaster.

The PRESIDENT: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 154?

It was so decided.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The PRESIDENT: I should like to inform representatives that the General Assembly will meet next Tuesday, 20 April, to consider agenda item 22, entitled "The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti".

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.